

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

26 November 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

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SUBJECT : Status of [redacted]

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. At the present time the Defense Department is recommending the adoption of the [redacted] as opposed to the [redacted]. This vehicle will be similar to the A-12. The major difference will be a slight increase in size to accommodate 2 men and to permit [redacted] photography.

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3. It is my understanding that this proposal is now before the President. The Joint Chiefs are split completely on the problem with the AF opposed to any version other than the RS-70. I believe General Taylor was generally in accord with the [redacted] and the present DOD position is somewhat of a comedown from that which it was pushing a month ago. Wiesner constituted a panel consisting of Kistiakowski, Land, Purcell and Baker to review this problem. I briefed them on the status of the A-12 program on Wednesday, 21 November. To date they have not reached any conclusions.

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4. The very close similarity between [redacted] the A-12 will present a new set of problems for the A-12 program if this decision is agreed to. I have asked Dr. Charyk to reconstitute a group to study the implications of such a decision on the A-12 program and particularly how it might be handled security-wise. My present view is that this development would probably have to be kept in the black, but this is certainly one of the conclusions which should come out of Charyk's study group.

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